Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 29 Dec 2020 at 16:53

Confidence: High for generally cold northerly airstream continuing into the New Year but lower with regard to details regarding showers and any longer spells of snow, especially on Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020: Mainly dry with clear or sunny spells. Cold with fresh northwesterly winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny	Clear night	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
00%	00%	<05%	10%	10%	<05%	<05%	10%

Forecast for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Weather: Dry overnight with a widespread frost and perhaps some low level mist or fog patches. Then a bright day with some good spells of sunshine around, perhaps just the odd snow shower for southwestern fells. Dry start to the evening but increasing cloud may bring a few snow showers to eastern fells towards midnight.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Around 75% over southwestern fells with occasional cloud above 600m, otherwise close to 100% with little or no cloud expected below the summits.

Visibility: Very good with some decent panoramic views of surrounding fells and lakes, falling to just a few kilometres in any snow showers and less than a kilometre in any early low level mist or fog.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	19/22 N	18/20 NW	19/21 NW	15/18 N	15/17 NW	16/18 NW	17/19 NW	17/20 NW	17/21 N
600	11/15 NW	11/14 NW	12/16 NW	10/14 NW	9/12 NW	9/12 NW	11/15 NW	11/15 NW	10/14 N
300	3/12 NW	4/12 NW	4/13 NW	4/12 NW	3/10 NW	3/10 NW	3/11 NW	3/10 NW	4/11 N
Valley	5/14 N	5/13 NW	4/14 NW	4/12 NW	4/10 N	4/11 NW	4/11 NW	4/11 N	6/12 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-11	-5/-12	-5/-12	-5/-12	-4/-11	-5/-12	-5/-13	-5/-13	-5/-13
600	-2/-7	-3/-8	-3/-9	-3/-8	-2/-7	-2/-7	-4/-9	-4/-9	-4/-9
300	-0/-2	-1/-4	-1/-4	-2/-4	0/-2	-0/-2	-2/-5	-2/-4	-2/-5
Valley	1/-2	0/-2	0/-2	0/-2	2/0	2/-0	0/-2	0/-2	-0/-3
Freezing Level*	300m	200m	100m	100m	200m	200m	100m	100m	00m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Valley temperatures widely close to minus 2 or 3 Celsius at dawn. Significant chill at all levels throughout.

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Weather: Cloudy with snow showers or, especially in the east, some longer spells of, perhaps occasionally heavy, snow through the early hours. Then a mostly cloudy day with further showers or longer outbreaks of snow, the snow turning increasingly to rain below about 600m in the afternoon before clearing from the north towards dusk. Clear spells in the evening with the odd light sleet or snow shower possible in the east.

Maximum wind: Northerly 15-20mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance through daylight hours for most with periods or persistent cloud above 450m and patches below, but nearer 30% in the southwest with cloud here more occasional at times. Chances improve through the late afternoon and evening

Visibility: Good or very good falling to a few kilometres in snow and snow showers and less than a kilometre in any heavier snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around minus 1 or 2 Celsius overnight rising to plus 3 or 4 Celsius by day
At 800m: Around minus 4 Celsius rising to minus 1 or 2 Celsius during the afternoon
Freezing level: Gradually rising to 750m by mid-afternoon, falling back to 600m later

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 29 December 2020. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:45. With no significant precipitation over the past 24 hours and temperatures remaining the same, ground conditions are similar to Monday; the differences being slightly more compacted snow and ice on popular routes and some redistribution of powder snow on a northerly wind, mainly above 700m. Snow is encountered from 300m, however, especially in the morning, there was ice on paths at all levels. Indeed this is more of a hazard lower down where it can thaw during the day and refreeze hard overnight. Snow depth increases with height with actual depth varying from little on exposed areas to drifts deep enough to swallow a 70cm ice axe; however, the majority of coverage is little over boot depth. Where undisturbed, the snow is soft powder. On popular paths it has been compacted into harder snow and ice, making conditions treacherous even on so-called easy routes. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, have similar conditions underfoot to those already described ie soft snow, hard compacted snow and also some ice and rime ice on rocks making conditions treacherous, especially in descent. Therefore, such routes should only be attempted by those equipped for, and experienced in, these conditions. Cornices have formed above some north through east faces. Although very small they comprise soft unstable snow and should be given a wide berth. Small upland tarns have partially or fully frozen but are completely unsafe to walk on. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe is essential and crampons should also be carried in case ice or hard snow is encountered – which it was on Tuesday. Even at low levels microspikes would be very useful for a safe and enjoyable day. Many people out today did successfully negotiate the edges without the correct equipment; however, the consequences of a simple slip on snow & ice not quickly arrested could be severe. It is never a good time to have an accident, but especially not in the middle of a pandemic. Climbers. Unfortunately the gullies are still full of soft powder snow, so please do not attempt routes in these conditions as damage will be done to the rare alpine plants. Please refer to the BMC “White Climbing Guide” for details. Plus, it would not be much fun anyway! Temperature: minus 2.6 C, Maximum wind speed 27.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 11.2 C, Average wind speed: 9.5 mph

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